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Farm Mobilization FACT SHEET

Supply of FARM PRODUCTION FACILITIES calls for conservation and good management

To meet the Nation's growing defense needs for food, feed and fiber, farmers this year are faced with the biggest production program ever asked -- 6 percent above last year's near record. The task will be difficult to achieve, for farmers are confronted with a smaller labor supply and a tightening situation on many important farm production facilities.

To reach the 1952 production goals, farmers will need to follow the most efficient production methods and carry out effective conservation practices and management in the use of both labor and materials.

The Department of Agriculture is presenting to allocating agencies agriculture's claims for raw materials needed in making farm machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, electrical equipment, and other production essentials. Total needs of the mobilization program are so great, however, that supplies of some facilities will not meet the needs of all users. This fact sheet outlines the supply situation and suggests how those who serve the farmer can help obtain the most productive use of these facilities.

Farm Labor Still on the Decline

Workers leaving for industry and the armed forces reduced the farm labor force some 350,000 in 1951. All signs point to a smaller number of workers on farms in 1952.

U. S. and affiliated State Employment Services are responsible for recruiting local labor, routing domestic workers between areas, and arranging for foreign and offshore workers if the domestic supply is inadequate. USDA, through Agricultural Mobilization Committees, is providing State Employment Services with farm production information. Committees also furnish farm production facts to Selective Service Local boards for use in classifying farm boys.

Farmers can help assure themselves of adequate labor by:

1. Cooperating with local Employment Service office by (a) reporting labor needs accurately; (b) placing firm orders for workers early; (c) encouraging farm workers to register at local office; and (d) informing the office promptly when workers are no longer needed.

2. Making full use of available labor-saving machinery and electrical equipment, efficient management methods, custom work, exchange of machinery and labor, job instruction for workers.

3. Helping in community efforts to mobilize local people for farm work.

U. S. Department of Agriculture Office of Information

Tighter Outlook for Machinery

Not as much new farm machinery and equipment will be available to farmers this coming year as in 1951. As for repair parts, farmers should be able to get what they need to keep machinery in operating order throughout the year. Manufacturers are being urged to stress production of repair parts in view of the tightening supply of new mechanized equipment and farmers' increasing dependence on machinery.

Machinery has a star role to play in meeting this year's goals. It must help offset the loss of farm workers who leave for industry jobs or military service. Effective use of machinery is essential for getting crops planted, cultivated and harvested efficiently and on time.

Military requirements, however, have cut into allotments of materials to farm equipment manufacturers. Farmers probably will notice the effects of this declining production around mid-1952, although some equipment with shorter lag time between production and delivery may be less plentiful during the spring months.

Machinery which uses considerable amounts of copper, copper-base alloys, aluminum, zinc and zinc-coated materials, and alloys including nickel and molybdenum is more likely to be short than equipment made principally of carbon steel. These shortages would affect production of portable irrigation systems, sprayers and dusters, domestic water systems, barn and barnyard equipment, and the more complex motorized equipment.

The raw materials situation plus the limited supplies of new equipment point to the need for careful maintenance and efficient use of machinery now on farms. Timely repairs, protection from weather, and proper care while in operation not only conserve critical machinery but cut production costs. The big farm production job to be done in 1952 also calls for community sharing of farm machinery as much as possible.

Electricity Can Ease Manpower Shortage

Electricity is a major key to increasing farm production in 1952. With less labor likely in most rural areas, farmers should seek ways of increasing production with electricity. Rural electric co-ops, power suppliers, or the county agricultural agent will have useful suggestions from electrical engineers.

Electric power saves most time with farmstead chores, releasing the farmer and his help for field jobs. A one-horsepower motor can do the work of eight men. A two-unit electric milker will do the milking job in one-third the time hand-milking takes. Electricity can help cut grain losses in storage, dries hay so it is more nutritious, saves feeding time with livestock, cuts down losses of pigs before weaning, and increases egg production by lighting poultry houses.

With a shorter supply of electrical construction and wiring materials, expansion of rural electrification will be slowed this year. Allocations for materials have been cut rather sharply for the first quarter of 1952. Even so, some new connections are being made on farms now without electricity. Although the supply of electric power is tight in some areas, the supply is generally ample for farm production uses.

Score on Fertilizers: Nitrogen, Phosphates Tight--Potash Adequate

Slightly more fertilizer will be available for agriculture in the coming year. But supplies may not meet the heavy demand. Since little additional land can be counted on for expanding farm production, increased production will be highly dependent on fertilizers. Farmers should buy at least part of their needs early to keep distribution channels open. Here is the supply outlook for the three major fertilizers:

Nitrogen--Will be tight. Supplies available for agriculture are expected to be 7 percent higher than last year. But military or industrial demands could upset this narrow improvement. Also, agricultural demand will be greater than last year.

Potash--Should be in moderately good supply with 5 percent more available than record supplies of the past year.

Phosphates--Expected to be tight with probably 6 percent less available than last year. Problem is scarcity of sulfur and sulfuric acid needed in producing superphosphate.

Pesticides : The Supply Varies

To avoid spot shortages of pesticides this year, farmers should order their basic needs for insecticides, fungicides, and weed killers well ahead of time for use. Except for pesticides containing sulfur, copper or lead, the supply is expected to meet farmers' needs--although this is by no means certain. Wherever possible, growers should use alternate materials for sulfur, copper sulfate, and lead arsenate, which are already in short supply.

Farmers should also be alert throughout the year to changed growing conditions or unexpectedly severe attacks by insects or plant diseases. Such developments could cause sudden acute shortages of pesticides. In brief, here is the current outlook for pesticides:

TIGHT SUPPLY (OR TIGHTER THAN USUAL)

Lead arsenate (orchard fruit crops)

Sulfur (cotton, citrus, apples, peaches, beans, peanuts)--use dithiocarbamates or other organic fungicides where suitable as replacement in plant disease control. Use parathion, TEPP, or trade-name products as alternates to control mites.

Copper sulfate and other copper fungicides (fruit crops, citrus, potatoes, tomatoes)--Use dithiocarbamates where suitable as alternate.

Liquid grain fumigants--Make use of mixtures containing ethylene dichloride which saves scarce carbon tetrachloride and carbon disulfide.

FAIRLY ADEQUATE SUPPLY

Synthetic chlorinated pesticides such as DDT, benzene hexachloride--(widely used on many crops)--Possible local or area shortages of other pesticides in this general class such as toxaphene (cotton), 2,4-D (weed control), 2,4,5-T (brush control), and TDE (tobacco and tomatoes.)

Calcium arsenate (cotton)

Rotenone (vegetable crops and livestock)

Many Groups Can Help Farmers Overcome Supply Difficulties

Essential to achieving 1952 production goals is informing farmers of the need for effective maintenance and use of farm machinery and equipment, use of alternate methods and supplies where shortages exist, maximum use of labor and similar measures. Many groups can help in this educational and information work.

INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Manufacturers and dealers who supply farmers and industry associations can:

- Stress objectives of the production goals program and the need for conservation and effective use of production facilities in advertising and literature directed at the farmer.

- Keep industry organizations--fieldmen, salesmen, retailers--informed of the goals program and production supply problems and solutions through house organs, meetings, direct contacts, and other outlets.

- Stress, through industry field forces and direct contacts with educational agencies, farm groups and others, the cooperation industry can give in explaining the supply situation and action to help meet it.

INFORMATION OUTLETS

The general and agricultural press, especially farm magazines and papers and weekly newspapers, national and local farm radio and television outlets, advertising concerns and other mass communication outlets can:

- Call attention to the situation on production supplies in relation to the goals program and stress methods to overcome production difficulties, especially action that the farmer himself can take.

- Explain the necessity and meaning of Government action concerning priorities on use of critical materials, and procedures and certification necessary when farmers seek allotted materials.

- Inform farmers of programs and efforts being taken by industry and agricultural organizations to help supply the farmer or meet shortages.

AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

Agencies within the Department of Agriculture can:

- Inform farmers of (a) the supply outlook, and efforts to provide farmers with essential supplies and equipment; (b) various means and methods that can be followed in getting maximum use of production facilities--the care, sharing and repair of farm machinery, for example.

- Enlist the support of local suppliers and dealers in helping farmers overcome production supply difficulties.

Farm organizations and other such groups can:

- Support efforts to explain and meet the production facility supply situation through meetings and personal contacts with farmers, and in their publications, house organs, radio programs, advertising, and special mailings.